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Writing a Testimony for RoadPeace

What is a testimony?

A testimony summarises the consequences a crash has had on the victim and their family.

RoadPeace published a set of testimonies to mark World Health Day in 2004 which was dedicated to Road Traffic Injury Prevention, the first time the World Health Day was ever dedicated to road death and injury.

Why is it needed?

Road traffic injury is traditionally measured by the number of casualties and thus limited to simple statistics of those killed and injured in a crash in the last year. Victims from previous years are ignored and forgotten.

A testimony highlights the impact and devastation caused by a crash on the bereaved, the 'secondary' casualties who still suffer life changing consequences. We also encourage those who have suffered life changing injuries, their families and carers to write testimonies about how their own lives and those of their families have been affected by a crash.

Our aim is to raise awareness of the costs of road crashes without having to suffer the personal devastation of one.

What should it contain?

We suggest a basic three part structure:

1. Summary of the crash itself, including

date, location, circumstances of the crash and details of the victim (age, gender, road user type, and relationship to the victim).

2. The legal response to the crash. This would include the thoroughness of the collision investigation, appropriateness of criminal prosecution (both the charge and sentencing) and the fairness of any civil compensation (not the amount).

3. The impacts it has had on your life and your family. This should include emotional as well as financial and physical, if possible. Please do include a photo. This could either be a scanned photo if you are emailing the testimony or send us a photo and we will send it back to you that same week. Testimonies should include the name of the victim and who has written the testimony.

How long?

It should be no longer than two sides of A4. We are keen to publish these Testimonies. Longer versions can go on our website.

How will it be used by RoadPeace?

We would like to publish these on our website and also use them with our campaign work. Some will be published in sets with a common theme, such as drink driving, speeding, mobile phone, by geographical area, death of a child (including grown children) or a partner.

How can RoadPeace help?

We can send you a copy of previous testimonies or this can be downloaded from our website. You can also send in a draft copy if you would like to discuss it with us further.